

to State Water Plan  
from: Dennis Fox

## Re: Forest Practices effects on Water Supply

Most of the available precipitation falls on Federal lands. Previously, these lands focused on timber production to the detriment of water quality and quantity. Currently, there is an increasing focus on wildlands as parks. This should increase as an emphasis as the state continues to urbanize. Urban populace having both a need for recreation areas that municipalities are loath to have the cost of acquisition and maintenance and poor science education possess the faucet phallacy seeing water as originating from the tap. So, while practices can be changed, I do not see this as a likelihood.

Not only does this new park focus mimic the excess of timber management it will continue to accelerate watershed degradation.

Road retirement when actively done by contractors with improper oversight mimics the siltation of original construction with the addition of blowouts.

- Road retirement can remove a tool for fire management of surrounded parcels.
- Same age management will result in conflagration fires which will increase siltation and sheet runoff. Vegetation will become the high evapotranspirative brush. Siltation will decrease storage capacity

of reservoirs and that of streams will kick in the ESR which affects water transfers and overall supply.

Same age management does not allow fires to burn into previous burns or open areas as well as my organization's concern about impacts to tree biodiversity rather than the tokenism of ~~biodiversity~~ diversity.

Watershed decisions based on emotions solely are as detrimental as those on economics solely, rather than a scientific multi-use mandate. Agencies involved can be seen as sylvan Entos not having the funding to do a proper job, but they should be noticed to be missing in this planning process.

The Forest Service has Regional Advisory Councils which are made up of commercial and environmental but not water interests.

It is to be assumed that there will be negative impacts to water supply from a lack of managing properly for water, which will vary regionally depending on rainfall and soil conditions. The variable that really affects this scenario is that scenario of global warming. Should these two scenarios be added together. My hypothesis is that the forest practices will have a multiplier effect upon global warming. I would leave it to staff to prove this hypothesis and determine the factor and the whole committed to consider these effects.